Claims 3-23 have been allowed, and it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. A favorable decision to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier

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Carl E. Schlier

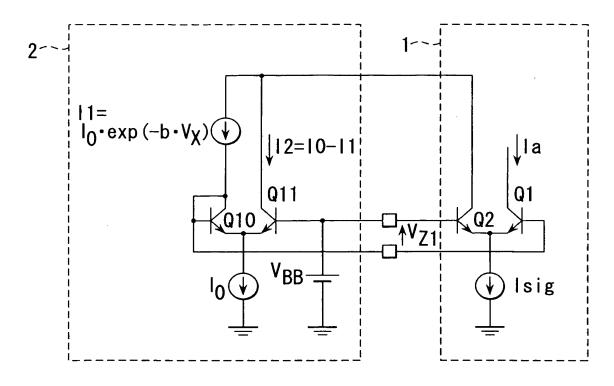
Registration No. 34,426 Attorneys of Record

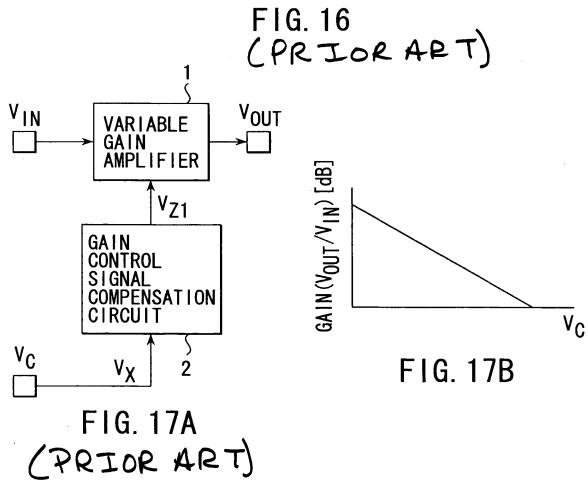
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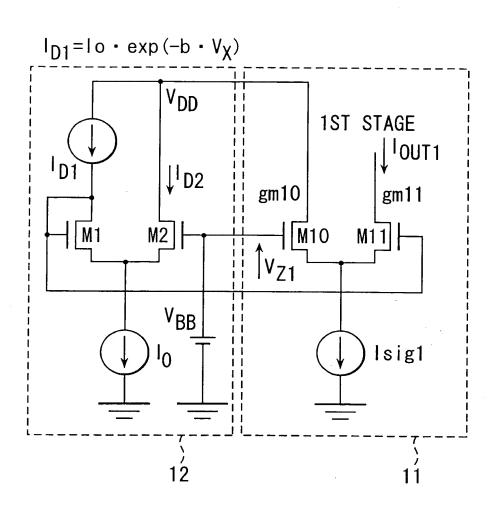


FIG. 18 (PRIOR ART)